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PEACE IN SCANDINAVIA.

We have received an interesting account of recent Peace efforts in Norway and Sweden, by M. K. P. Arnoldson, of Stockholm, late a member of the Swedish Parliament. He has, for months past, been holding meetings and delivering lectures in various parts of the great Scandinavian Peninsula, where he has been exposing the evils of militarism and the advantages of Peace and Arbitration. He has addressed gatherings in thirteen towns of north and central Sweden, and eighteen in Norway. His journeys and labor have also included the important towns of Bergen and Gothenburg. In the former alone he gave fourteen addresses.—*London Herald of Peace*.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT HARRISON.

The President sent a message to Congress June 2, covering a letter of Secretary Blaine which endorses the recommendations of the Pan-American Congress. In addition to other matters, the Secretary recommends the erection by the nation of a hall at Washington in which future congresses like the "Maritime" and "American" may hold their sessions. We trust it will be completed in season for the World's Peace and Arbitration Congress of 1893. The Washington dispatch is as follows:

"The conference also at its final session decided to establish in the city of Washington as a fitting memorial of its meeting a Latin-American library, to be formed by contributions from the several nations, of historical, geographical and literary works, maps, manuscripts and official documents relating to the history and civilization of America, and expressed a desire that the Government of the United States should provide a suitable building for the shelter of such a library, to be solemnly dedicated upon the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America. 'The importance of these suggestions,' says the President, 'is fully set forth in the letter of the Secretary of State.' Secretary Blaine, in his letter, recommends that Congress appropriate \$250,000 to provide a safe and suitable building to receive and protect the proposed collection, which building may also be used for the offices of the proposed bureau of information, and contain a hall or assembly room for the accommodation of such international bodies as the two conferences that have just adjourned."

As the Maritime Conference was European as well as American, the hall will be open to properly called conferences of all nations.

THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT.

BERLIN, June 9. The committee of the Reichstag on the Army bill held another session to-day. Chancellor Von Caprivi appeared before the committee and expressed his concurrence in the statement made by General Verdy du Vernois, Minister of War, that it would be impossible to reduce the term of compulsory military service.

The Chancellor alluded to the resignation of Prince Bismarck, and said that though his withdrawal from the Chancellorship had rendered the conduct of business difficult, it had made no change whatever in Germany's relations with other Governments. Dr. Windthorst, the leader of the Clerical party, and Herren Richten and Rickert, leaders of the Freisinnige party, declared that the bill would not be acceptable to their parties unless the term of service was shortened. The prospects of an agreement between the Government and the Opposition on the bill is therefore remote.

THE CONDITIONS OF DISARMAMENT.

The question of disarmament is one of difficulty even to those who believe armaments provocative of war. Germany proposes to increase her standing army so that it will amount to 500,000 active and effective troops, not counting the volunteers for a year. The Emperor recommends this on the ground that France has done as much. This is "tit for tat"—the opposite of the Golden Rule,—force not love. Such is to-day the attitude of great nations. So long as governments deny the obligation and practicability of Christianity, I do not see but they are logical in appealing to the *lex talionis*—law and penalty—the Old Testament ethics, which Christ came to supersede by a higher law. Disarmament, if practicable at all, must take place upon these principles:

1. It must be *gradual*. This to save the sudden shock of the dismissal to civil life of millions of men now under discipline untrained to labor, and thus unprepared for citizenship. There is danger that sudden disarmament would at once augment the idlers, the strikers and the mobs. Only one country, our own, could have absorbed at once into civil life the vast armies of the civil war. It put the United States to a tremendous strain, though its soldiers were originally citizens—never "professionals"—and readily took up business occupations. Sudden emancipation of slaves is to be deprecated, and soldiers have some disabilities common to slaves. Let disarmament then be gradual.

2. It ought to be *simultaneous*. As nations are now constituted it *must* be. One nation will not lead another, if both are equally armed, in disarming. France and Germany must agree, first, how many troops to disarm; secondly, at what time. Russia will be harder to win to disarmament, for her statesmen will allege the greater difficulties which she has to encounter in the vastness of her territory and the increased obstacles thus put in the way of raising and massing of troops. Germany and France may each dismiss 100,000 men to-day, and call them together within a short time as did Napoleon after Elba in France. Great Britain would allege the world-wide character of her dominions—the need of military supervision in Africa, Asia, and at her distant islands—and the difficulty of a recall if once she dismisses her present force or any considerable part of it. The United States is not "armed." The question for it to solve, is, "Does any necessity exist here for great armaments?" Any general argument in favor of disarmament in Europe should tell against armament in America. Simultaneousness could then be secured only with two, possibly three, leading powers; in this they must themselves take the initiative.

3. It must be *mutual*. Neither France nor Germany would consider disarmament except as a mutual act. The lesser powers might easily follow their example, especially Italy, if freed from the obligations of the triple alliance. Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Denmark, would gladly lessen their armies and their expenditures. As soon as a mutual agreement could be made a general disarmament would follow.

4. The disarmament must be *proportional*. This in the interest of equity and the balance of forces.

It seems to me that a gradual, simultaneous, mutual and proportional disarmament is practicable. Interest, economy, morality, safety and peace call for it. The Pope has addressed the Emperor of Germany, characterizing the numerous Peace military establishments as

unchristian. He represents the Catholic Church, and also the sentiment of the people in all Christian countries.

Religious opinions have been fruitful sources of persecution and bloodshed and it is worth something to the cause of Peace that one so eminent and wise as the present Pope, discerns the oppressiveness of the armies, and the threat they contain to the peace of the world.

The Emperor of Germany has lately said many kind and conciliatory things to his peaceful, laborious and suffering subjects. But we can only know him by his fruits. A proposition to arm has just come from him to the German nation, and this in a time of profound peace, with no recent or provoking question in debate. This means war. He is in a position to say to France, "Let us have peace by beginning to dismiss our soldiers."

A single regiment dismissed from the service of each of those countries would mark the turn of the tide, and do more for peace than all the protestations possible.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE WAR SYSTEM OF CHRISTENDOM.

No believer in Christianity can fail to see the opposite and antagonistic spirit between the war system, as it is legalized and administered by the nations, called Christian, and the teachings and example of Jesus Christ.

If war is a necessity to the world it must be shown to be so from considerations not found in the New Testament. If the precepts of military law are good, their goodness cannot be founded on those of Jesus Christ. To deny these propositions is to confess either a want of knowledge of Christianity as taught by its founder, or a want of knowledge of war in its organization, method, spirit and practice, or a prejudice so invincible as not to be vanquished by reason.

No Christian contends that Christ propagated religion by force of arms. That is confessed to be the chief heresy and fatal error of Mahomet. The contention of those who think the church should tolerate wars waged by the nations of which Christianity is the principal religion, is that Christ and his apostles tolerated it. They did not denounce the profession of a soldier. They did not argue against the military arm of governments. They accepted its protection. They commended some of its officers. They illustrated doctrines and duties by military practices. This is not the place to consider individual texts. But a somewhat prolonged investigation on my part has failed to discover one word or act of Jesus Christ breathing the spirit of emperors, kings, conquerors, or their military servants.

John the Baptist gave directions to soldiers how to live as he did to other men, and in terms that strike at the root of their conduct and their profession. Do violence to no man. Do not seize by force another's property, even to compensate yourself for service to the State. Be content with the wages you have.

The centurions Christ commended were not commended for any distinct military quality. Our Lord commended the faith of one man who was a Roman captain. He accepted the praise of another who had charitably aided in building Jewish churches. But he never said soldiering is fulfilling my commands. Fighting is a method of my kingdom. I approve of armies and all they stand for except excess. On the other hand he said to his followers, "Love your enemies." Pray for them that misuse you

—turn your cheek to the smiter. The Beatitudes are Christ's enunciation of things fundamental and peculiar to the Christian character. Not one of them commends self-assertion, physical courage, military ambition, pride of strength or even heroism—if by heroism is meant the courage to attack an enemy, wound or kill him.

The apostle Paul compared Christians to soldiers, who were as common and as near to him as the sparrows and grass of Galilee was to Jesus. Their manly and noble qualities were worthy of imitation. The organization of an army, its unity, its harmony of action, its common object, the subordination of its parts, its discipline, are all commendable, might all be imitated with advantage by those who seek to combine great bodies of men to exert a moral influence or effect a reform. Therefore not only in figures of speech and by illustration, drawn from the war system, has Christianity been taught from the first centuries till now, but the Salvation Army as constituted and the Industrial Army as proposed, exemplify some of the best forms of combined effort for good ends.

LOSSES IN THE CIVIL WAR.

Investigations recently made in the War Department at Washington show that the late Civil War was relatively the most sanguinary on record. Though the Union and Confederate returns are not altogether exact, the War Office is able to give a close approximate estimate of the killed, wounded, and missing in the Union forces. According to the statistics, 297,825 Union soldiers lie buried in the various national cemeteries. Including losses of which no account can be taken, the war cost the North 320,000 lives, or more than one in nine of all those who entered the service. The two opposing armies met in over 2000 skirmishes and battles. In 148 of these conflicts the loss on the Union side was upwards of 500 men, and in at least ten battles more than 10,000 men were reported lost on each side. The combined losses of the Union and Confederate forces in killed, wounded and missing in the following engagements were:—Shiloh, 24,000; Antietam, 38,000; Stone River, 37,000; Chancellorsville, 28,000; Gettysburg, 54,000; Chickamauga, 33,000; McClellan's peninsula campaign, 50,000; Grant's peninsula campaign, 180,000; and Sherman's campaign, 125,000. Waterloo was one of the most desperate and bloody fields chronicled in European history, yet Wellington's casualties were less than 12 per cent., while, during the Civil War, the loss at Murfreesborough, Atlanta, Chickamauga, Gettysburg, and other places, frequently reached and sometimes exceeded 40 per cent., and the average of killed and wounded on one side or the other was 30 per cent. If the figures of the Confederate losses could be accurately ascertained, the total deaths in the late war would probably surpass 500,000.

The Milan *Secolo* says:—"Italy spends on its military expenses more than *ten times* the amount which it spends on public instruction, and more than *twenty times* what it spends on agriculture. But while it has the disgrace of being among the nations who have the greatest number of illiterate persons, while an extensive area of her lands lie uncultivated and barren, are not these figures shameful and humiliating?"